

like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Hillsdale United Methodist Church for its outstanding record of service to the people of my congressional district for the past half century.

The Hillsdale United Methodist Church's mission is to "celebrate God's gifts as an accepting community, inviting all people to explore and live out new beginnings and dimensions in faith." The church's devotion to this credo of acceptance is clearly demonstrated by its welcoming attitude and its numerous and active community outreach programs. Some of these many programs include a Tutor Learning Center, the sponsorship of Boy Scout Troop and Cub Pack 27, YANSY (Young and Not So Young—an adult social group with monthly meetings and activities), and Samaritan House, which collects food and monthly donations for low-income residents in the area.

The Hillsdale United Methodist Church has also sponsored two refugee families and, as a service to the immigrant community, holds a Tongan language service every Sunday afternoon. In fact, five years after Hillsdale United Methodist welcomed its first Tongan members in 1966, the Tongan Methodist Church began in the United States at the Hillsdale United Methodist building. In 1993 the Fale Hufanga United Methodist Church began in San Carlos. Hillsdale United Methodist Church's Tongan members are still active in this church and recently resumed a Tongan language service.

I would like to invite my colleagues to join me in extending congratulations for the manifold achievements of the Hillsdale United Methodist Church over the last 50 years. The church's generosity and exemplary civic virtues have favorably impacted the lives of innumerable people in my congressional district—men and women, children and adults, American citizens as well as immigrants and refugees. I would like to express my personal gratitude for the outstanding work of the church, and I anticipate with great pleasure all that the church will accomplish in the new millennium.

RECOGNITION OF FAIRFAX COUNTY URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. DAVIS of Virginia, and I are honored to extend our deepest admiration and sincere thanks to the 92 members of the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue Team in their courageous response mission to help the people in Toulou, Taiwan, following the massive earthquake there on September 20.

Fairfax County is one of the few localities in our country which has trained and authorized a search and rescue team that can be deployed at a moment's notice to deal with crisis situations anywhere in the world. Less than an hour after the Office of Foreign Disaster As-

sistance activated the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Urban Search and Rescue Team to assist in the international effort, the team was mobilized and ready for deployment; ready to leave their families, friends and loved ones. We understand that this was the team's ninth mission—nine times they have left their families and homes to answer the "International 911" call.

What's most remarkable is that the firefighters on this team volunteered to be part of this specially trained unit, which is on the front lines, working round the clock, going into perilous situations—whether natural disasters or terrorist-inspired—driven by self-sacrifice to help save lives. Each member of this team has shown extraordinary heroism.

We are very proud of each and every member of the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue Team. They truly are heroes and deserve to be recognized.

The U.S. Congress and all of America salute the following members of the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue Team:

Chris Bastin, James Bernanzani, William Bertone, Greg Bunch, David Conrad, Sean Evans, Thomas Feehan, Tom Griffin, Mark Guditus, Andrew Hubert, Matt Nacy, Clyde Pittard, Mark Plunkett, Scott Smith, Rex Strickland, Jim Walsh, Kent Watts, Robert Zoldos, Daniel Bickham, Edward Brinkley, Clyde Buchanan, John Chabal, James Chinn, Kevin Dabney, Kurt Hoffman, Joseph Kaleda, Joseph Knerr, Randall Leatherman, Evan Lewis, Craig Luecke, Glenn Mason, Joe Meritt, Gary Morin, Gery Morrison, Dewey Perks, Michael Regan, Michael Tamillow, David Taylor, James Tolson, Jack Walmer, Jerome Williams, Barry Anderson, Donald Booth, Gary Bunch, Carlton Burkhammer, Brian Cloyd, Michael Davis, Jeffrey Donaldson, Michael Istvan, Mark Lucas, John Mayers, Rich McKinney, Wayne Reedy, Bill Reedy, Michael Reilly, Charles Ruble, Mike Stone, Ruben Almaguer, Marilyn Arwe, Joe Barbera, William Barker, Tony Beale, Bill Berger, Jack Brown, Jennifer Brown, Mike Canfield, Paul Carlin, Steve Catlin, Carol Chan, Tom Cole, Robert Dube, Garrett Dyer, Dr. French, Sonja Heritage, Brooke Holt, Gerald Jaskulski, Mike Keeler, Anthony MacIntyre, Paul Majarowitz, Chuck Mills, Susan Mingle, Richard Owens, Dean Sherick, Earl Shuggart, Dallas Slomp, Jim Strickland, Nate Smith, Lorenzo Thrower, Dean Tills, Steve Weissman, Steve Willey, John Tung.

HONORING OLIVER BIRCKHEAD ON RECEIVING THE FIRST ANNUAL CINCINNATI BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION AWARD

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Oliver Birkhead, who will receive the First Annual Cincinnati Brain Injury Association Award. Mr. Birkhead's community leadership on children's issues will be recognized on October 1, 1999, at a dinner that will benefit Cincinnati's Children's Hospital Medical Center.

Traumatic brain injury is the leading cause of acquired disability and death among children. Each year, more than one million children sustain brain injuries, most commonly from sports injuries caused by bicycling, skiing, diving, or playground falls. Brain injury is also the most common cause of mortality in young adult Americans under the age of 45. Depending on the type and severity of the injury, rehabilitation may restore crucial skills that are necessary to lead a more normal life.

Oliver Birkhead is well known for his distinguished career in banking. He was born in Brooklyn, New York, and graduated from Nichols College in Dudley, New Hampshire and Stonier Graduate School of Banking at Rutgers University. Ollie entered the banking business in 1937 with the Peoples National Bank and Trust Company in White Plains, New York. In 1942, Ollie entered the U.S. Army Air Corps, where he served until 1946. He then resumed his career in banking, and was appointed Assistant National Bank Examiner in the Second District of New York by the Comptroller of the Currency. Ollie joined Chemical Bank in 1948, and in 1951, he joined the Central Trust Company, now PNC Bank, in Cincinnati. Ollie rose to the position of Vice Chairman and Director of PNC until he retired from the Board in 1989. He has served as a Board Member of the Union Central Life Insurance Company; the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company (now CInergy); the Manhattan Life Insurance Company; and the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland.

A committed community leader, Ollie has served on the Executive Committee of the Cincinnati Art Museum; as Vice Chairman, Advisory Board member, and Life Member of the Salvation Army; and as a board member of the Cincinnati Council of World Affairs, the Boys Club of Cincinnati, and the Cincinnati Association of the Blind. He also served in leadership positions with United Way of Cincinnati. Along the way, Ollie made many friends, and I am proud to be among them.

We congratulate Ollie Birkhead as he receives this prestigious honor.

HONORING JOANN WARD

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to JoAnn Ward, executive director of the Fond du Lac, Wisconsin Convention and Visitors Bureau, who will retire this Friday, October 1 after more than 22 years of service.

As Bureau executive, JoAnn's job has included marketing the city of Fond du Lac and its environs as a desirable tourist and convention destination. It is a task she has accomplished so well, and with such creativity and leadership, that it can be said with no exaggeration that her stamp has left a lasting imprint on the character of the community.

The considerable economic impact from tourism and convention dollars on the Fond du Lac area during her tenure is a significant and tangible result of JoAnn Ward's efforts. But perhaps more telling than the bottom-line success story are the personal characteristics that

engendered that success—JoAnn's gift for innovative ideas her keen sense of the public's tastes and preferences, and her amazing ability to enlist volunteers to share her vision and accomplish common goals.

Over 20 years ago, her imagination inspired the creation of Walleye Weekend, Fond du Lac's signature festival that draws hundreds of volunteers and tens of thousands of festival goers to the city's Lakeside Park each June. JoAnn has either originated or taken a lead role in developing and enhancing scores of other Fond du Lac area special events and festivals, including the annual Taste of Fond du Lac, the Fond du Lac Jazz Festival and the International Acrobatic Competition, which has been hosted by Fond du Lac the past 29 years.

She has built attractions centered around the natural beauty of the area and the unique assets of its residents, and has helped the many businesses that depend on conventions and tourism to capitalize on their strengths. A tireless worker and consummate promoter of both her community and the state of Wisconsin, JoAnn Ward has never accepted limits on her ability to try out new ideas or strive for new levels of achievement.

JoAnn's influence has extended beyond Fond du Lac to larger metropolitan areas and to national and international organizations. A recipient of the Wisconsin Tourism Federation's Award for Outstanding Contributions, she was appointed by Governor Tommy Thompson to the state's prestigious Sesqui-centennial Commission, which over a three-year period organized and oversaw planning for the huge, multifaceted 150th celebration of Wisconsin's statehood in 1998.

In 1995, she served as the Sixth District delegate to the White House Conference on Tourism. And in 1997, JoAnn was inducted into the International Festival & Events Association's Hall of Fame.

But it is at home where her impact has been most keenly felt. JoAnn has succeeded in making my hometown of Fond du Lac not only a desirable travel destination but a better place to live. It is testament to her stature in the Fond du Lac community that her retirement announcement was not only front page news, but the main headline in the daily newspaper. A later editorial stated, "It will take a rare combination of enterprise, persuasiveness, grace and good humor to build a successor for this woman who has done so much for Fond du Lac."

I am proud to call attention to the many accomplishments of my friend, JoAnn Ward, and join the members of the Fond du Lac community in honoring her as she continues to pursue new horizons.

HEALTH RESEARCH AND QUALITY ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 2506) to amend title IX of the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research:

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Chairman, the grant program included in Representative JOHNSON's amendment has broad bipartisan support of over 190 Members of the House, including the chairs, ranking members and other members of subcommittees and committees of jurisdiction—the Commerce, Ways and Means and Appropriations Committees. I am a proud cosponsor of Representative JOHNSON's related legislation and I look forward to the passage of this amendment.

Children's Hospitals across this Nation, especially Children's Hospital and Health Center in San Diego, are critical to the future of pediatric medicine and therefore to the future health of all children. Because of the inequity in our current federal GME funding structure, our Children's Hospitals are disadvantaged when compared to other teaching facilities. Because GME funds are based on the amount of Medicare patients in each hospital, and Children's Hospitals rarely treat patients that use Medicare funds as payments, these hospitals are treated unfairly compared to other teaching schools that receive funds allocated through the Medicare Program.

The grant program in this amendment would provide \$280 million in FY 2000 and \$285 million in FY 2001. Since comprehensive GME reform will take more time to develop, this amendment would provide immediate financial assistance through a capped, time-limited authorization of appropriations.

Children's Hospital and Health Center in San Diego is the region's only pediatric medical center, a 220-bed hospital offering comprehensive programs in diagnosis and treatment, research, rehabilitation, medical education, outcomes and community outreach and education. Founded in 1954 to treat polio victims, Children's has continually grown in direct response to the needs of the communities it serves through the San Diego and Imperial regions.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to working with Representative JOHNSON and my other colleagues on this issue because the education and training programs of these institutions are critical to the future of pediatric medicine and the health of our children.

DR. KATHLEEN C. CRATES NAMED PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize my former Findlay High School classmate, Dr. Kathleen C. Crates, upon her selection as Ohio's 1999 Principal of the Year.

This award, sponsored by MetLife and given by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), acknowledges the achievements of Ohio's most outstanding secondary school principal. Candidates were judged based on their relationships with teaching staff, their ability to promote positive

change, and their use of creativity in solving problems. In announcing Dr. Crates's selection, Ohio NASSP Director Steven Raines cited her outstanding leadership skills and her creation of a caring environment at Findlay High School, a facility that serves more than 2,100 students.

Before she was named principal of our alma mater in 1995, Dr. Crates served as principal of Findlay's Donnell Middle School, assistant principal at Findlay High School, and as a teacher of learning disabled students. She completed her undergraduate work at Findlay College, now the University of Findlay, in 1968, and earned her master's and doctoral degrees from nearby Bowling Green State University. Dr. Crates has supplemented her skills through seminars at Harvard, Johns Hopkins, and the University of California.

In her honor, March 12, 1999, was designated "Dr. Kathleen Crates Day" by the students and staff of Findlay High School. Last month, Dr. Crates was further honored as one of six Ohio educators chosen to receive Ohio's first ever Pioneer in Education Awards, presented by the Ohio Department of Education.

Dr. Crates will now compete on the national level with 49 of her peers, as they vie for the title of National Principal of the year.

I am proud to join the chorus of voices saluting Kathy's quarter century of dedication to the young people of Findlay. I congratulate her on a job well done, and wish her the best of luck in the national competition and in all her future endeavors.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 30, 1999 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 5

9:30 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

Clean Air, Wetlands, Private Property, and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee

To hold hearings on the Environmental Protection Agency's Blue Ribbon Panel findings on methyl tertiary-butyl ether.

SD-406